

Amendments to the Claims

1-21 (Canceled)

Please cancel Claims 24-27, and 37-40. The Claims should now read as follows:

22. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising:

(i) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a canine p40 subunit protein;

(ii) a nucleic acid linker of $(XXX)_n$ wherein $n=0$ to 60; and

(iii) a nucleic acid sequence encoding a canine p35 subunit protein; and

(b) an isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence fully complementary to the nucleic acid molecule set forth in (a).

23. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22, wherein the p40 encoding nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 47 contiguous nucleotides identical in sequence to at least 47 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:52 and SEQ ID NO:58, and wherein the p35 encoding nucleic acid sequence comprises at least 47 contiguous nucleotides identical in sequence to at least 47 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:46 and SEQ ID NO:49.

24-27. (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid linker lies 3' of the p35 subunit encoding nucleic acid sequence and 5' of the p40 subunit encoding nucleic acid sequence.

29. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim ~~29~~ 28 wherein said nucleic acid linker comprises SEQ ID NO:83.

30. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid sequence that encodes a canine IL-12 single chain protein.

31. (Currently amended) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim ~~31~~ 30, wherein said single chain protein is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) single chain protein comprising a p40 subunit at the N-terminus and a p35 subunit at the C-terminus; and

(b) single chain protein comprising a 35 subunit at the N-terminus and a 40 subunit at the C-terminus

32. (Previously presented) The nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22, wherein said nucleic acid molecule comprises a nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of nCaIL-12₁₅₉₉ and nCaIL-12₁₅₃₃.

33. (Previously presented) A recombinant molecule comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 22.

34. (Previously presented) A recombinant virus comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 22.

35. (Previously presented) A recombinant cell comprising a nucleic acid molecule as set forth in Claim 22.

36. (Previously presented) A composition comprising an excipient and an isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 22.

37-40. (Canceled)